

BRaille PRODUCTION ATTAINS
ITS HIGHEST OUTPUT

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AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.

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Braille Production Attains Its Highest Output

RECORD OF JANUARY, 1928, STANDS AT PEAK

RED CROSS industry in the transcribing of books in Braille for the blind in the month of January, 1928, was the largest in the history of this work. The recognition to Braille was accorded by the Red Cross in 1921, when the work was under control of the Red Cross Institute for the Blind, then maintained in Baltimore. A report of the directing librarian at the institute for January, 1921, shows the following:

Hand copied manuscript pages received----	955
Pages proof-read and corrected-----	1,041
Total pages copied for blind soldiers-----	553
Braille books circulated among the ex-service men -----	28

An appreciation of the growth in seven years is afforded by the record report for January of the current year. This report shows the following:

Hand copied manuscript pages produced----	21,847
Hand copied pages proof-read-----	14,657
Hand copied books prepared for binding----	161
These books of 50 titles contained (pages)--	13,266

This single month's production of hand copied manuscript was practically 75 per cent of the entire year's production of 1921, which was 29,000 pages. In that year 344 volumes were completed. In the single month of January almost half of the entire year's product in 1921 came from the busy braillists.

There seems to be a very general impression that the books produced by Red Cross transcribers are all placed in the Library of Congress. This is a misconception, for the volumes are presented to a very large list of libraries and institutes. For example, the books produced in January were presented to the Perkins Institute for the Blind, Watertown, Mass.; public library, Seattle, Wash.; public library, Cleveland, Ohio; Overbrook School for the Blind, Overbrook, Pa.; free public library of Philadelphia; Home Teaching Society of Philadelphia; public library, Detroit, Mich.; State library of California; and the Library of Congress.

THE titles of this production show the widest variety of selection by the volunteer transcribers of the Red Cross. The titles of the January list will give a very good idea of the type of reading matter made available to the blind which, let it be noted, is kept fully up to date with the best of modern books. Here is the complete January list:

"Queer Judson," Joseph C. Lincoln.

"Prince and Rover of Cloverfield Farm," Helen Fuller Orton.

"Practical Basketry," Anna A. Gill.

"Garibaldi and the Thousand," George Macaulay Trevelyan.

"The Woman of Knockaloe: A Parable," Hall Caine.

"The Common Creed of Christians: Studies of the Apostles' Creed," William Pierson Merrill.

"The Keeper of the Bees," Gene Stratton Porter.

"Everybody's St. Francis," Maurice Francis Egan.

"The Arrow," Christopher Morley.

"Architecture," Lewis Mumford.

"To Let," from "The Forsyte Saga," John Galsworthy.

"Poems Worth Knowing," Grace B. Saxon.

"The End of the House of Alard," Sheila Kaye-Smith.

"The Play Actress," S. R. Crockett.

"The Story of the Little Big Horn: Custer's Last Fight," Lieut-Col. W. A. Graham.

"The Turn of the Road," Eugenia Brooks Frothingham.

"The Childhood of the World: A Simple Account of Man's Origin and Early History," Edward Clodd.

"Mr. Fortune's Trials," Henry Christopher Bailey.

"Harriet Beecher Stowe: The Story of Her Life," Charles Edward Stowe and Lyman Beecher Stowe.

"The Plutocrat," Booth Tarkington.

"A Naturalist's Rambles About Home," Charles Abbott.

"The Mine With The Iron Door," Harold Bell Wright.

"The Mansion," Henry Van Dyke.

"Fanny Herself," Edna Ferber.

"On Autumn Trails," Emma-Lindsay Squier.

"The Totem of Amarillo," Emma-Lindsay Squier.

"The Wild Heart," Emma-Lindsay Squier.

"Stories from the Green Fairy Book."

"Santa Claus' Partner," Thomas Nelson Page.

"The Land of the Blue Flower," Frances Hodgson Burnett.

"And Then I Jumped," Charles A. Lindbergh.

"It can Be Done," Robert Kerr Kennedy.

"Simple Happiness," from "The Spectator."

"The Cotton Kingdom," William Edward Dodd.

"Kathleen," Christopher Morley.

"Santa Claus and the Mouse," Emily Poulson.

"Christmas Cuckoo," Frances Browne.

"Why the Chimes Rang," Raymond MacDonald Alden.

"Sisters," Kathleen Norris.

"The Long Old Road in China," Langden Warner.

"Friends of a Quill," from "On Autumn Trails," Emma-Lindsay Squier.

IN 1921 there were approximately half a dozen Chapters which were producing Braille. At the beginning of the current year 126 Chapters had volunteers engaged in the production of reading matter for the blind. Miss Adelia M. Hoyt, Acting Director of Braille, American Red Cross, points out that when the Red Cross Institute for the Blind was taken over by the U. S. Veterans Bureau, all books which had survived hard usage were transferred to the Library of Congress for general circulation, and the American Red Cross adopted Braille as one of its regular peace-time activities. "Today Braille transcribing stands unique among the other agencies for the blind in this country," writes Miss Hoyt. "It has more than 900 certified workers, scattered from Maine to California. . . . The influence of Braille transcribing is ever widening. Already it reaches from China around the world to the Philippines. A certified braillist, now a missionary in South Africa, is using her knowledge to teach the blind of that country to read—an achievement regarded by the natives as little less than miraculous. In the conduct of

College Days Come Again at Workers' Institutes

BY MISS MARION CLEVELAND

Assistant to Director, Junior Red Cross, Boston Metropolitan Chapter

The time has come, the Red Cross said, to talk of many things—Disaster, health and volunteer, and Junior happenings, Ex-service men, and Roll Call too, with problems that it brings.

IF the Walrus and the Carpenter had lived in the twentieth century, undoubtedly they would have organized an institute in which to talk things over, just as the Red Cross did at the Statler in Boston from March 15 to March 21. At 8 o'clock on the first day Parlor F in the hotel was a place entirely devoid of furniture and people. At 10 o'clock the same room was filled with enthusiastic Red Cross workers seated in upholstered chairs and being told by a stern headmaster that they must take copious notes because their notebooks might be called in. College days had begun again!

Appropriate indeed were the stirring notes of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" that marked the beginning of a D. A. R. convention next door, for the headmaster, Assistant Manager James T. Nicholson, Eastern area, began his series of lectures by painting a vivid picture of the ideal captain of the Chapter forces, the director. Friendliness, courage, loyalty, faith, high ideals, intelligent sympathy, and a sense of humor—all these characteristics and many others must belong to the ideal leader. His greatest responsibility is to "render intelligent and sympathetic service, so that the 'Greatest Mother' may never be a hypocritical anomaly, but a satisfying and commendable actuality," to use Mr. Nicholson's quotation from the definition of the somewhat cynical college sophomore.

"Social work is an attempt to help all people to do and to know what they have a right to do and know," said Miss Katherine Hardwick, director, Boston School of Social Work, in her talk on the family. She stressed the importance of the inter-relation between the worker and the family; what the family thinks of the worker is as important as what the latter thinks of the family as an institution. She must not forget that although it is spoken of as a whole, each family is made up of individualities which must be taken into consideration.

DURING the noon hour the visitors, some of whom had never been in Boston before, had a chance to "meet themselves coming back" on Boston's crooked streets. A few of the fortunate were marshalled to nearby tearooms by those whose previous experience in Boston made them feel superior. Some even preferred to snatch a sandwich at the hotel and spend the rest of the time examining the various exhibits of the institute. The six-room doll-house at the back of the room attracted many. In this the duties of Home Service, First Aid and Life-Saving, Junior Service, Home Hygiene were all portrayed in miniature, while in Parlor F another doll-house of eight tiny rooms depicted the work of volunteers. In this latter room Red Cross posters adorned the walls, Braille writings were spread out for the interested observer, and handiwork of the Juniors abroad and at home attractively displayed.

After Miss Helen Richardson, Chapter correspondent in Washington, spoke in the afternoon, those students who once

regarded "1040's" as dry statistical necessities knew that they were living reports, all important enough to be read by so many members of the National staff that they could not be delayed long enough to be acknowledged. Each one is in itself a link in the great chain of the Chapter records that make up the work of the Red Cross, and if one link is neglected the chain is incomplete.

"No Chapter is planning for the future without Junior Red Cross," said Mr. Nicholson in his introduction to the history of the organization that embraces 10,012,411 children, of whom nearly 6,000,000 are American Juniors. Thirty-nine countries have Juniors enrolled in this great army of children, and 27 of them publish Junior Red Cross magazines. Mr. Nicholson was especially concerned with a proper educational tie-up. Quoting the late Arthur W. Dunn, he said: "The Junior Red Cross is the child of two parents, the Red Cross and the school. . . . It gives to the schools a laboratory for the teaching of practical ethics. It is laying a foundation on which the peace of the world can be created."

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Be of an Open Mind—Receptive and Patient, Judge Payne Tells Chapter Workers at Washington

IN his address at the opening of the Chapter workers' training course, March 23, at National Headquarters, Judge John Barton Payne, Chairman, American Red Cross, spoke as follows:

My Friends: I think perhaps that mine is the only speech that does not assume to be instructive. This is an institute—I suppose, more properly speaking, a school. What I have in mind about it, about all the institutes that have gathered, is that we must not only know from first hand the work of the Red Cross—its purposes, its principles, its accomplishments—but we may feel that we are one. The Chapter is just as important as the National Organization; without the Chapters there would be no National Organization.

The Chapters may, as is the case in some countries, function without a national organization; certainly a national organization doesn't function very much (though there are places where they try) without chapters. Our Chapter organization is unique. In other countries of the world there are organizations in different cities and localities but they do not, so far as I know (except in the Philippine Islands, where they are a part of the American Red Cross), accept them as such. And now they have asked Mr. Grieseimer, our Roll Call director, to visit the League of Red Cross Societies, and from it go out to some of the countries wanting to know how we do it—namely, why the Roll Call is conducted and how we conduct it; and incidentally whether the American Red Cross is the enterprise of our people; the purpose and the reason why the American Red Cross stands before the world as an illustration of a peace-time success of Red Cross organization. (Continued on page 24)

he work the American Red Cross cooperates with the Library of Congress, maintaining a small staff at the library, where office room, franking privileges, and other facilities are freely granted."

As an outgrowth of the hand work in Braille, some Chapters and several individuals have set up presses for printing many pages of the same hand-Brailled page. This is a process worked out in France and known as the Garin process. Manuscript intended for duplication in a number of pages is written by picked workers on specially prepared slates and writers. These pages are then backed with a composition whereby they are fixed, much as the page of type print is stereotyped for the newspaper press. The results are proving satisfactory both to libraries and readers. There is a great saving in the duplication of the same book for numerous libraries by the use of this Garin printing process. Of course it is not the intention of the Red Cross to compete with the regular established printing houses, but its purpose is to supplement their efforts and to serve where there is a real need. So long as the demand for Brailled books far exceeds the supply this need will exist.

"The Braille transcribing section in the Library of Congress at Washington acts as a clearing house," Miss Hoyt points out, "and no title is recommended to a transcriber for her work if it has been or is likely to be produced by the Garin process. The binding of hand-copied manuscript has taxed the resources of the larger libraries and been almost prohibitive in the case of the smaller ones. To meet this need Red Cross volunteers have undertaken bookbinding, a pioneer being the Brooklyn Chapter. The output has been pronounced by experts as comparing favorably with the output of commercial binderies.

"The good that comes out of this volunteer work, not alone to the blind, but to the individual engaging in transcribing, is very wide-reaching and most wholesome. Braillists become interested in the local blind, help with the clubs and associations of the blind, put blind children in touch with schools, commissions and home teachers. Christmas cards, booklets, marked playing cards, Brailled letters, and many other expressions of friendship and good will now pass from the transcribers to touch-writers, for the volunteer loves this personal touch.

BRAILLE has helped to enrich the libraries, aided the students, and been a means of educating the public to a better understanding of the blind and their problems. It is of interest to our people to know that in this Red Cross service for all the work accomplished only two sighted employes receive any remuneration; other paid workers are without sight—in all, some 40 persons, including proof-readers, instructors and supervisors.

"The story of Braille transcribing," says Miss Hoyt, "is preeminently that of a volunteer service. Only a love of the work and real desire to serve can account for the hours of patient labor given by volunteer transcribers, shellackers,



This Braille transcriber of the Chicago Chapter illustrates the bulk of books for the blind as compared with ink-print originals—on left are pages of "The Covered Wagon," and on right the bound volumes of "The Education of Henry Adams."

printers, bookbinders, and others. The American Red Cross is the greatest organization in the world using volunteer service. It is a fortunate thing to have enlisted its help in Braille transcribing."

There is also this pleasurable side to the volunteer's effort. Many of the eminent authors of the works transcribed learn of their preparation for the blind and they are always profuse in their appreciation of the volunteers. For example, to

Mrs. F. D. Matthews, who transcribed in 17 volumes on the Braille slate, when each dot had to be punched separately, the "Story of Philosophy," the author, Dr. Will Durant, wrote: "That you should have spent seven months in the task of transcribing the story into Braille is one of the pleasantest things I have heard about my story-book." On the side of the blind the letters of appreciation are as touching as they are numerous.

Miss Julia Hayes, principal of the School for the Deaf and the Blind, Pasay, P. I., writes:

"We have received the 26 manuscripts. They will prove a great blessing to the blind here and fill a long-felt need for fresh reading material. Many of the stories can be used in literature classes for the required outside readings, and a few of them are among the required readings of the Philippine schools. Please accept our deep gratitude for this great kindness."

A STUDENT at Hunter College, New York, finds it difficult to express how much the transcription of French lessons has meant to her. "The accuracy and promptness of the work have been a great aid in keeping up with the text used in college," she writes. "I consider this work of transcribing for students one of the great phases of Red Cross service."

The mother of a Mississippi girl writes: "It is a problem having a child who is blind enter a city high school, and what you are doing for her is of untold value. It is really missionary work, and the material could not be secured in any other way. The Brailled manuscript is beautifully done and is of great help to her. Edith in her examinations made 98 in mathematics and 97 in Latin. The reason why she did so well is that she was able to do the studying for herself in the Brailled manuscripts which you so kindly produced for her use."

The success of blind men and women in commercial life has been the subject of frequent newspaper articles. Only in the last few weeks such articles have told the story of a blind editor in Oregon, and of a life insurance solicitor who has taken his place with the leaders in a great company. There is no limitation upon the industry of the volunteer transcribers and there is no more beautiful work for those who are handicapped by the lack of sight than this unselfish placing in their hands these Braille books which in ink-print play so important a part in the lives of the sighted.



Study of Diseases Most Prevalent in a Typical American Small City

PUBLIC HEALTH in a given community depends, of course, upon the personal health of each individual. Health officials generally have recognized that the individual is the foundation upon which the public health is built. In order to know what diseases must be guarded against, it must first be known what diseases are present. A study conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service extending over more than two years in a typical American small city in one of the eastern States has produced information of great interest to the gen-

eral public, for it shows clearly what diseases are most prevalent in the general population.

The rate of sickness from colds and bronchitis was the highest, being annually 418.6 per 1,000 persons. Influenza and grippe came second, with a rate of 143.2 per 1,000; diseases of the digestive system were 96.5 per 1,000; tonsillitis, 65.7; diseases of the nervous system, including headaches, 44.1; accidents and other external causes, 34.2; whooping cough, 22.6; rheumatism and syphilis, 21.8; heart and other circulatory diseases, 18.3. The list contains ten or eleven more items, and concludes with fever and asthma, which is shown to have caused 5.8 cases of sickness each year per 1,000 persons.

From this study fairly accurate records of real illnesses were secured. As a matter of fact, less than five per cent of the illnesses of exactly stated duration were recorded as a day or less in duration; nearly 80 per cent were three days or longer, and 60 per cent were eight days or longer in duration. Approximately 40 per cent were not only disabling but caused confinement to bed. It is evident, therefore, that in the nature of the illnesses recorded were more than trivial in their character.

There are certain facts from this study that stand out with particular significance. First, the extraordinarily high incidence of sickness shown in early childhood was a rather surprising result. Illness was far more frequent under 10 years of age than at any other time of life. Second, the interesting suggestion was afforded that the average individual is more free from illness in the age-period 15 to 24 years. Thereafter sickness becomes more frequent as age advances.

The further query suggests itself—at what age is the individual least able to withstand diseases after he has been attacked? One way to measure this is to compare the attack of the greatest resistance to death in childhood being the age-period 5 to 14. The lowest resistance is in infancy and early childhood, 0 to 4 years, and in middle and old age. Ability to survive illness thus varies markedly from resistance to illnesses at different ages, particularly in childhood (5 to 14) when the average individual suffers from illnesses frequently but has a relatively small chance of dying, and in the old years when not only does his susceptibility to illness increase but also his chance of death. This is due partly, of course, to the nature of the illness occurring at these ages, and partly to the diminished ability to resist the diseases which manifest themselves in sickness.

It is believed that one of the most important lessons to be drawn from this study is that public health has as yet barely touched the task of preventing the conditions which manifest themselves in physical and mental impairments, in inefficient living, and in postponable death. Plague and pestilence have been diminished, infant and child mortality from infectious and intestinal disorders, and healthful living is being established more and more firmly as a popular ideal, but aside from these, the prevention of disease remains as an outstanding problem yet to be solved.

The hope of the future lies in the continued and increasing growth of scientific knowledge which can be applied to the protection against disease, and the promotion of the public health by the application of all organized health promoting services—local, State, and national.

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